

CAMDEN COUNTY, GEORGIA

2022 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Camden County Board of Commissioners

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Deputy County Administrator

EXPANSION OF SALES TAX TO INCLUDE DIGITAL GOODS

Over the last couple of years, the State of Georgia has expanded the Georgia Sales Tax System by requiring the collection of state and local sales taxes by out-of-state companies on tangible goods. Today, more and more Georgians are receiving many of their goods through a digital format. 30 other states require sales tax remittance on digital goods. Camden County supports expanding taxation on digital products which helps shift the burden of taxation from property owners to the selective sales tax purchases made by consumers.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF TAX INCREASE

The tax increase notice required under the Taxpayer Bill of Rights has created great confusion about tax increases for the public. To promote public notification of tax increases, Camden County requests that the notification required by the Taxpayer Bill of Rights and the five-year history be replaced with one annual notification that is simple for the taxpayer to understand.

MENTAL HEALTH REFORM

Mental health is a topic that has affected every Georgian in some manner. A recent study by *Mental Health America* indicates that Georgia ranked #4 in prevalence of mental illness within the nation, and #51 out of 51 states when it comes to mental health care access. The two primary ways that the state interacts with the mentally ill population is through hospitals and jails. Camden County supports legislation that provides equal and adequate funding and resources for mental health programs across county governments.

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TAG AND TITLE AGENT FEES

Although tag and title administration is a state function, counties currently provide all of the equipment and personnel for administering the tag and title system. However, counties have not received an increase in compensation for such services in nearly 30 years. Camden County recommends a modest increase in title fees from \$18 to \$20 and the fee for a replacement title be raised from \$8 to \$20. Camden County also recommends that the county share of the base tag fee should also be increased to assist in processing this service on behalf of the State.

REIMBURSEMENT FOR EMS SERVICES

The emergency medical service (EMS) community provides the first hands-on medical response to Georgians in need, whether provided by a county fire or EMS department, a hospital-based service, or a contracted private provider. Camden County must invest in EMS and its personnel to provide the highest quality of care to our residents. The challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic have made it imperative for the General Assembly to consider all issues relating to EMS, especially reimbursement of costs, and how to best support local EMS service providers as their role continues to evolve and change. Camden County supports reimbursing EMS services for the first 10 miles of transport and bring base rate for transports to the Medicare rate, adopting permanent reciprocity for EMTs licensed in other states while meeting or exceeding Georgia's requirements, and adding the requirement that EMT-R's start the EMT certification process within six months of receiving the EMT-R certification.

LOCAL

GENERAL AVIATION AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT

Camden County continues to seek out the opportunity to regain its place in aerospace industry through the construction of a General Aviation Airport. The Georgia Department of Transportation is currently holding \$4,512,634.21 in funds from the U.S. Navy for use on the construction of a replacement airport in Camden County. The county desires to maintain its partnership with the State for the development of this airport by exploring all opportunities for placement, construction, and operation.